

CLASSIFICATION

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. All Czech men had to report to the District recruiting station when they reached the age of 19. These recruiting stations were located in each locality having a population of approximately 50 thousand. This first call was primarily for the purpose of getting a personal history of the individual. During the year in which a man became twenty years old, he was ordered by the local recruiting office to report to the nearest District recruiting station for a physical examination and for the determination of his classification. This procedure usually took place in February and March. For example, all men born in 1932 had to report to their respective districts for a physical examination and classification during February and March 1952. After receiving the assigned classification, the individual returned home pending his call to active duty, which could come at any time thereafter. Induction, however, as well as demobilization, usually occurred during the months of April and October. The following classifications were used:

A. Individuals without any defects.

A-J. Individuals with slight defects of a temporary nature which could be eliminated by treatment or which resolved themselves with the passage of time.

B. Individuals with slight defects, e.g. flat feet or minor illness.

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- B-54 Individuals with stomach trouble, with poor condition of the feet, etc. A limited duty classification.
- C-J. Individuals minus one or two fingers, those with defective vision or hearing and those with poor teeth. C-J individuals were generally assigned to guard units.
- C-D. Individuals with TB or other respiratory diseases.

Classes and Term of Service in the Czech Army

2. At the time of my departure the youngest class serving in the Czech Army was the class of 1932; the oldest was the class of 1929. The 38th Mecz Regt had men of the classes of 1929, 1930 and 1931, and in April 1952 received 100 men of the class of 1932. The latter men were assigned to the 1st Mecz Bn, 38th Mecz Regt for training. The group, termed the Training Company (Vycvikova Rota), was to remain with the battalion for a period of three months and subsequently to be distributed among other units within the 38th Mecz Regt.
3. The class of 1929, which was to be discharged in October 1951, was held over for a period of 21 days, so that the men concerned could receive their reserve training prior to discharge. It was rumored in the regiment that the class was to be sent out on special maneuvers. However, normal duties continued to be carried out, in addition to the preparation for the receipt of new recruits. The new policy for the 21-day hold-over after each demobilization period was supposed to save the government the expense of having the reservists return for normal reserve training.
4. Only 10 EM of the 38th Mecz Regt, among those released in October 1951, chose to remain in the army for an additional two-year period. During the April 1952 release, the regiment received orders from division headquarters to the effect that a drive was to be made to have at least 21 of its soldiers extend their enlistments for a period of six months or longer. The regiment in turn directed its battalions to fill the quota. I had to furnish the names of three soldiers who desired voluntarily to extend their two-year enlistment by six additional months. I had considerable difficulty in getting the soldiers to extend. RA personnel could be retained in the military service only by voluntarily accepting an extended period of service. There was no provision whereby an NCO was compelled to remain in service.
5. In early 1952 an extensive drive was started in the Czech Army to have soldiers sign up for an additional tour of two years. Although special privileges were granted to those signing up, very few soldiers responded to the drive.
6. The decree issued by the Ministry of National Defense in 1948, known as paragraph 39, gave the power to recall any officer or NCO into the service. Generally, a politically reliable NCO was promoted to the grade of junior lieutenant when recalled under the provisions of the above-named paragraph; [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Since 1949 no officers have been released from the Czech Army. It was rumored, however, that officers would have a chance to get out. Officers also had the opportunity to sign up for a period of six years. Special privileges and assignments were granted as a reward for those signing up. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Only 25 per cent. of the officers were committed for a six-year period.

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Reserve Training

7. After completing the two-year term of service plus the 21-day extension, it was rumored that EM reservists had to attend a 21-day training period at least once every three years. There was no recall of reservists for summer training during the past several years. The years 1950-51 were primarily devoted to training, following the adoption by the Czech Army of the Soviet type of T/O & E and the change in training methods and procedures. Because of the lack of qualified officers at that time, the reservist program was set aside. In early 1952, however, a considerable number of NCO reservists were called back into the service under the provisions of paragraph 39. NCO's recalled under this paragraph were promoted to the rank of junior lieutenant and sent to selected training schools. I have no knowledge concerning the testing of the mobilization machinery.

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